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### Academic library and information services: New paradigms for the digital age: Wrap-up and conclusions

Geleijnse, J.P.J.

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# **Bielefeld Conference 2006: Academic Library and Information Services: New Paradigms for the Digital Age**

Hans Geleijnse

Director of Library and IT Services

Tilburg University,

The Netherlands

## Urgency of change

- “There is no choice but to change and to do it quickly if libraries want to survive” L.Brindley
- Capability of libraries to innovate will be the key factor for success” C.Hasiewicz

# What is driving the need for change

- Developments in the commercial sector
- Continuous IT developments (Microsoft, Google, FAST, Elsevier)
- Revolution in amount of information that will become available/visible
- Users, changing user behaviour and user needs

## Changing user needs and behaviours

- Libraries are seen as providers of reliable information, but
- Most users start their searches with a search engine (Google) and not with Library portals
- Web Services – without direct intervention of librarians
- Most users want to be self-sufficient

## Search and Find

- Major advances in having a single place to find research information
- Contextual information. More than just records and documents
- Strong market
- Provide real support to researchers, students, general public
- Who will be in control tomorrow?

## Lynn's themes

- Know your users and keep close to them
- Rethinking physical spaces
- Market your organisation
- Digitization: open up your collections
- Reduce legacy costs and improve productivity
- Invest more in innovation and digital activities
- Developing people

## Some trends in the library world

- New forms of partnership with academic departments, in support of education and research
- Awareness that repositioning of the library and a better identification of added value is needed
- More active involvement in support of scholarly communication
- Strong messages on E-Science
- “Cooperation” has been a key word in most presentations
- More focus on accountability: cost-effectiveness - performance measurement – LibQual - usage data – benchmarking



## Key issues at Bielefeld Conference in 2004

- The need for an information strategy
- Integration of digital library with digital learning environment
- Institutional repositories and open access
- Need for organisational change in the library
- Tendency towards stronger cooperation at national and international level

## What is different, what has changed?

- Urgency for change has become clearer
- All developments have accelerated, in particular in area of Institutional Repositories and Cooperation
- No real breakthrough yet of a widespread role of libraries in E-learning

# Libraries in support of research and scholarly communication: Repositories

- Institutional repositories are developing nationally, internationally, also subject based (e.g. economics)
- More than 600 now in the world
- Content is still limited, critical mass is still lacking
- Interoperability not yet solved properly
- Developments in Europe could be role model
- EC encourages to set up digital repositories

# Libraries in support of research and scholarly communication: E-science

E-science: new opportunities for libraries in supporting use, re-use, curation and preservation of primary research data

Data can be included in repositories

- E-science: supporting collaborative (international) research
- For most libraries this will be a complete new area of activities

# Integrated Information Infrastructure

- Drivers: research community, European Commission.
- To overcome obstacles in metadata exchange, functionality, interoperability, usability, etc.
- Requires coalitions and partnership
- Focus on Service Oriented Architecture is recommended
- Will libraries (in cooperation) be capable to solve these problems or will the commercial market provide the answer?

## Cooperation

- Cooperation within the university: with other service departments, with faculty
- Cooperation at national level (licenses, DARE)
- Cooperation at international level (knowledge exchange, copyright legislation, preservation, repositories)
- ....it's not (only) about licenses anymore...

# Management

- Library strategy should serve the strategy of the university
- More focus on cost-effectiveness - performance measurement – quality - usage data – benchmarking
- In staff planning more focus on new tasks / innovation / new skills / cooperation
- Organisational change required to meet new challenges

## Major challenges

- To integrate the digital library services into the work processes of student, teachers and researchers so that they can work more effectively and more efficiently
- To provide add value services according to the needs and demands of our users



**Thank you !!**